



International Brotherhood of  
**BOILERMAKERS LOCAL NO. 242**

6404 N. Pittsburg  
Spokane, WA 99217  
(509) 489-1891 • FAX (509) 484-5731

**Mark Keffeler**  
Bus. Manager/Sec. Treas.



**Page 1**

March 4, 2013

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
Post Office Box 40002  
Olympia, WA. 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

I am writing to you concerning leaking tanks on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. As you are aware, the Department of Energy (DOE) has recently admitted to six (6) tanks at Hanford that are currently leaking. This is in addition to the numerous other tanks that have leaked over the course of the last forty (40) years.

Unfortunately, leaking tanks at Hanford is not an entirely new subject. The older single wall tanks have long outlived their planned life expectancy and have been leaking for decades. To combat this problem the DOE had several double walled tanks fabricated in the 1970's and 1980's which are now nearing the end of their planned life expectancy as well with at least one double shelled tank leaking.

With the construction of the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) several years behind schedule, the need for new tanks at Hanford has never been greater. What concerns me greatly is the cost estimates and length of schedule that are being thrown around by the DOE of \$100 million dollars and five (5) to seven (7) years per tank.

As a Union Representative for the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, I represent the hard working men and women that build these tanks for a living. In fact, I personally worked on the last set of double walled tanks at AP Farm in the mid 1980's and we built eight (8) double walled tanks in eighteen (18) months that were built to strict ASME codes with one hundred (100) percent of the welds passing x-ray testing. I believe the cost at that time for all eight (8) tanks to be approximately ten (10) million dollars.

More recently, our members have built the four (4) large stainless steel tanks at the WTP that will receive waste from the tank farms when the WTP is completed. These four (4) tanks were built in approximately two years at a total cost of thirty three (33) million dollars. These tanks were built on time and under budget and received nationally recognized safety awards as well. I would also like to point out that stainless steel is much more expensive than carbon steel.

**Page 2**



International Brotherhood of  
**BOILERMAKERS LOCAL NO. 242**

6404 N. Pittsburg  
Spokane, WA 99217  
(509) 489-1891 • FAX (509) 484-5731

**Mark Keffeler**  
Bus. Manager/Sec. Treas.



One of the reasons being distributed for the DOE's inflated cost estimate and schedule for these new tanks is the strict specifications and codes that these vessels have to be built to. I can assure you; these tanks are built no differently than virtually any other tank that our members construct nationwide. Although nuclear grade construction does require more paper work, the basic construction technique does not change. Our members routinely work to strict codes and tolerances that can pass x-ray examination or any other required testing. This is evidenced by all the vessel repairs that are members have been performing at the WTP as a result of the DOE purchasing completed tanks from less than adequate sources.

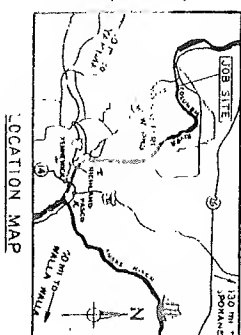
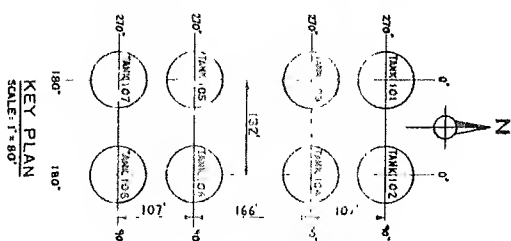
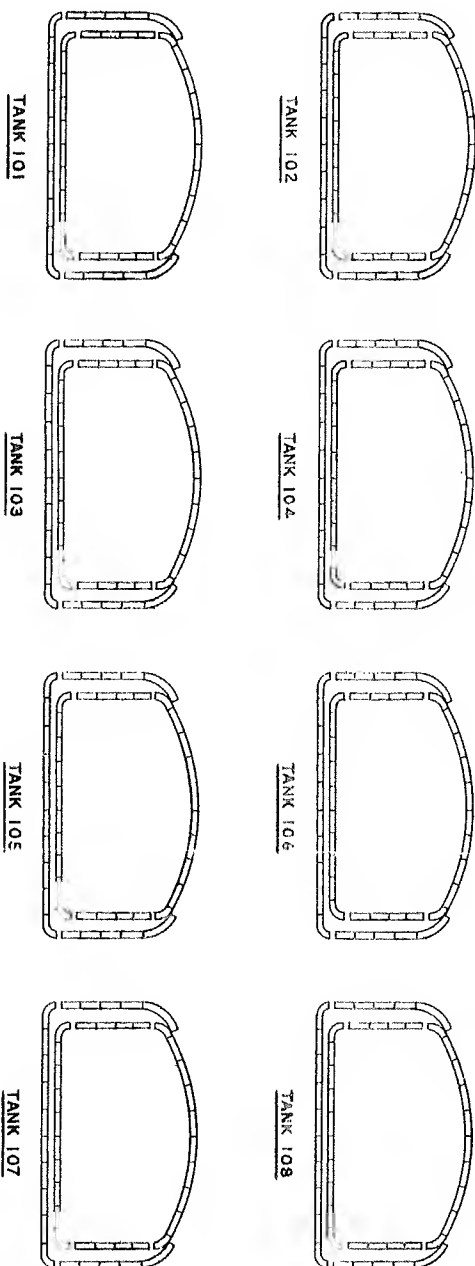
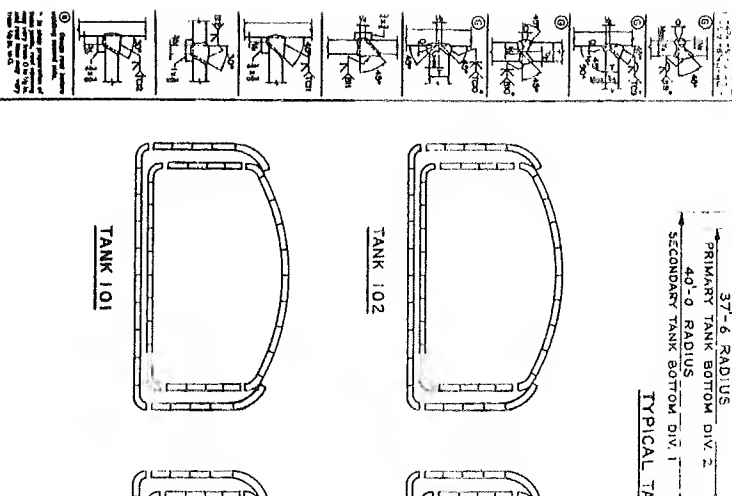
In closing, I ask for your support in urging the Department of Energy to construct a new set of tanks in which to stage waste that is destined for the WTP until such time that the WTP is complete and starts processing the waste. I believe these tanks are necessary in order to protect our environment and I believe that the men and women I represent can construct them better, safer, and more cost effectively than anyone else in the world.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter and if you should have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
*FOR*

Mark Keffeler  
Business Manager  
Boilermakers Local 242

[illegible]

8 DOUBLE WALL  
WASTE STORAGE TANKS  
J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO.  
HANFORD WORKS  
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON



Division of United States Steel Corporation

T3036 A1

